



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury Street, 2nd floor, Concord NH 03301-3570
Voice/ TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964
<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>

603-271-3483
603-271-3558
FAX 603-271-3433
preservation@nhdhr.state.nh.us

**REPORT ON THE BUCK STREET COMMUNITY HOUSE
(DISTRICT NUMBER 3 SCHOOLHOUSE)
THOMPSON ROAD
PEMBROKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**JAMES L. GARVIN
NOVEMBER 11, 1997**

**UPDATED WITH A BUILDING CHRONOLOGY
OBTAINED FROM THE MANUSCRIPT RECORDS OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3 AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

FEBRUARY 20, 2005

This report is based on an inspection of the Buck Street Schoolhouse made on the morning of November 6, 1997. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Hamilton of the Pembroke Historical Society, and building mover Robert Dole of Epsom. The purpose of the inspection was to trace the history, evolution, and condition of the building, and to evaluate the feasibility of removing the roof frame to facilitate the moving of the structure to its future site behind the Pembroke Town Hall on Pembroke Street.

Summary: The Buck Street Schoolhouse is in good structural condition. Its lower frame, below the wall plates, is older than its roof frame, which appears to date from around 1860. The roof frame is structurally substantial, but is lightly attached to the older wall frame below. It should be relatively simple to remove and then reconstruct the present roof frame to facilitate moving the building beneath overhanging wires. The schoolhouse has undergone three major remodelings, the first around 1860, the second around 1900, and the third after the building ceased to be used as a schoolhouse in 1943 and became the Buck Street Community House. Depending upon the wishes and needs of the Pembroke Historical Society, the building could be restored to its appearance of around 1900 or even kept in its present interior configuration, which includes a kitchen area adjacent to the entrance doorway.

History and evolution: The Buck Street Schoolhouse is a small wood-framed building measuring 28'-6" in length and 24'-4" in depth. It stands on a portion of old Buck Street (now renamed Thompson Road) in the eastern part of Pembroke. The main axis of the building runs generally north-and-south. For the purposes of this report, it will be assumed that the roof ridge runs north-and-south; the wall of the building with the doorway will therefore be referred to as the east wall.

As this report is written, no one has carried out documentary research in the Pembroke town records or the records (if they exist) of Pembroke School District No. 3. I have skimmed the published town reports between 1844 and 1942 in an attempt to document changes that occurred to the Buck Street schoolhouse between the mid-1800s and the end of town ownership of the building.

With few exceptions, these published reports make no mention of schoolhouses.

Under a series of New Hampshire laws passed in 1805, 1808, 1825, 1827, 1842, and later, the construction, repair and staffing of the district schools were the responsibility of the individual school districts to which each building belonged. These districts were required to choose their own clerks and keep their own records independently of town selectmen's records or minutes of town meetings.

After passage of new statewide legislation in 1885, the construction, maintenance and staffing of town schools became the responsibility of a single townwide school district in each town rather than of a number of separate neighborhood districts. This change equalized the availability of school funding throughout an entire town, but did not make school administration the responsibility of town government directly.

For these reasons, the published annual reports of the town of Pembroke make few references to the town's schoolhouses. While the published reports do include narrative school reports from the 1840s onward, these reports deal almost exclusively with the performance of teachers, with school attendance, and, in a few cases, with serious shortcomings of the school buildings in each district. Only occasionally are specific repairs or alterations to a school building detailed. When such shortcomings or repairs were noted for District No. 3, the district served by the Buck Street schoolhouse, these references are noted below.

The evolution described below is, therefore, a conjecture based upon physical evidence that can now be seen in the building. The exposure of further evidence during removal of overlying modern materials, and the examination of school reports and town treasurer's reports from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, will eventually make this chronology more accurate. Pembroke district school records may be retained by the town or may be filed with the extensive body of early town records now on

deposit at the New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives (the State Archives) on South Fruit Street in Concord.

According to Carter and Fowler's *History of Pembroke, N. H. 1730-1895* (1895), page 165, a schoolhouse was built in District No. 3 in 1808, at a cost of \$304.25. According to the map that accompanies this history, the original District No. 3 building stood some distance southwest of the current location and on the same side of Buck Street (site #318 on the map). (The present Thompson Road is a re-named section of old Buck Street.) The original location of the District No. 3 schoolhouse was southwest of the Hampshire or Pettingill Brook, north of the great bend in the Suncook River. The building is said to have been moved to its present site at some unspecified time.

It is difficult to determine whether the present schoolhouse was built in 1808, but it seems unlikely. The entire lower frame of the building is hewn, and its construction is generally in keeping with carpentry practices before about 1830. Many schoolhouses built in the early 1800s, however, were considerably smaller in overall dimensions than the Buck Street Schoolhouse, and many had low-pitched hipped roofs. Evidence indicates that the Buck Street Schoolhouse has always had a gable roof, though not the present one.

Evidence also shows that the original roof of the present Buck Street schoolhouse was composed of common rafters whose feet rested on tie beams that spanned the building at intervals of every 4' -4" or so. Roofs with common rafters came into rather widespread use in the upper Merrimack Valley around 1830. Prior to this time, most buildings had rafter-and-purlin roofs in which the rafters were usually spaced some seven or eight feet apart. A small building like the Buck Street schoolhouse, if constructed before 1830, would therefore normally have had only four pairs of rafters, one pair at each gable end and two more pairs between. The fact that the present Buck Street building originally had a roof of common rafters suggests the possibility that the present structure was built after 1830.

Most schoolhouses built in the first few decades of the nineteenth century also had slanted floors that rose from a point near the teacher's desk to the wall opposite the desk, creating a modest amphitheater effect. As noted below, it is possible that the Buck Street schoolhouse once had such a floor, but clear physical evidence of such an arrangement has yet to be revealed. In the absence of documentary or physical evidence, it may be said that the Buck Street building could date from 1808, but more likely dates from 1830 or later.

This likelihood is strengthened by a further reference on page 184 of Carter and Fowler's *History of Pembroke, N.H., 1730-1895* (1895). This citation states that in 1838

The town also voted to divide school district No. 3 into two, “the dividing line to be the brook [Hampshire or Pettingill Brook] near where the present school-house now stands. The part of said district westward of said bound & northward of Bucksteet road except Capt. Fuller, to be formed into a separate district to be numbered 9;” and that “each district shall have their proportion of the present school-house, and the money now assessed upon the inhabitants of the original district.

Despite the fact that several of the hammered granite underpinning stones have been pulled partially away from the building to reveal the floor framing, no sign of the splitting technology used in preparing these stones is yet visible. Splitting methods for granite changed around 1830, and with further removal of the underpinning, or with the moving of the building off its foundations, we may eventually be able to date the splitting of the stones to either before or after 1830.

The combination of physical evidence and documentary evidence, fragmentary though both presently are, suggests that the present school building was constructed in 1838 or shortly after.

The present schoolhouse was remodeled at some point, which we may estimate roughly at 1860. This remodeling entailed the complete removal of the original roof frame above the wall plates. As shown by stud mortises in each of the end tie beams of the frame, the original roof was a gabled roof, but probably had a different pitch than the present one.

As noted above, the original roof appears to have been framed with common rafters, placed just over four feet on centers and pinned at their feet to a series of tie beams that ran east and west to span the twenty-four foot width of the building. The exterior cornices of the building probably did not project beyond the front and rear wall planes by more than a few inches. A long piece of exterior crown moulding now used as a nailer in the attic suggests that the building had simple moulded cornices at the tops of the front (east) and rear (west) walls. The ceiling of the schoolroom would originally have been at the height of the bottoms of these tie beams, or a short distance above the window openings.

The remodeling entailed the replacement of the old roof frame with the present one. The present roof is composed of a series of sawn common rafters, placed about three feet on centers. Each rafter was sawn in a reciprocating or up-and-down sawmill, and measures 2-1/2 by 7 inches in cross section. The feet of the rafters are cut with bird's-mouth joints that rest on the original hewn wall plates. The tails of the rafters project beyond the wall plates to provide a strong roof overhang on the front and rear walls of

the structure. The building has no ridgepole, and the peaks of the rafters appear to be nailed lightly together.

About three feet above the front and rear wall plates, each set of rafters is linked by a collar tie of about the same cross-section as the rafters. These collar ties allowed the ceiling of the room to be raised to its present height, improving the ventilation of the space.

It is not clear why the school district would have thought it worthwhile to replace the original roof of the schoolhouse. Perhaps the old roof was replaced at the same time that a slanting floor was leveled. In general, the period of the 1850s and 1860s was a time of renewed concern over the design and maintenance of schoolhouses. The removal of a slanting floor (if the building had one), together with the provision of a new roof system that permitted the raising of the center of the ceiling, would have been regarded as beneficial to the comfort and ventilation of the room.

The interest shown during the 1850s and 1860s in improving older schoolhouses, or in building new ones, was the direct result of an initiative of the New Hampshire legislature. The legislature established the position of State Commissioner of Common Schools in 1846. In his first annual report, published in 1847, the newly-appointed commissioner placed strong emphasis on schoolhouse architecture. He lamented

the multitudes of [school]houses, in the State, not only inconveniently located, and awkwardly planned, but absolutely dangerous to health and morals . . . and this in places, where private taste is adorning the town with ornaments of architecture and enriching the country with the fruits of rural industry. It is, however, encouraging to find, that a better feeling is coming to prevail on this subject. Many districts are rebuilding, and, in most instances, upon an improved plan. . . . If the architecture is neat, and the grounds tastefully laid out . . . not only will the house answer the essential purpose of health and comfort, but prove a material auxiliary in elevating the minds and correcting the habits of those who receive their education in it.

The commissioner's report of 1847, and others that followed, recommended care in the location of schoolhouses, and good taste and liberality in their construction. Subsequent reports illustrated model school buildings selected from throughout the state, or reproduced illustrations and text from Henry Barnard's *School Architecture; or, Contributions to the Improvement of School-Houses in the United States* (1848). In June, 1849, to encourage the improvement of district schoolhouses across New Hampshire, the legislature authorized the distribution of a copy of Barnard's influential volume to the selectmen of each town. The effect of this book in Pembroke seems to

have been felt immediately in District No. 1, the location of the Pembroke Street schoolhouse. A new brick Pembroke Street school building, which still stands and serves as the Grange and Odd Fellows' hall, was built in the summer of 1851 to replace an older brick building that had fallen into disrepair.

It is possible that the first remodeling of the Buck Street schoolhouse represented an effort by taxpayers in District No. 3 to emulate the progressive attitude shown by those of District No. 1.

During this first remodeling of around 1860, the walls of the schoolroom, the ceiling of the entrance vestibule, and the slanted ceilings on the undersides of the rafters, were all plastered over split-board lath. Where visible, most of this lath was made from boards sawn on a reciprocating sawmill, but a few of the split boards were circular sawn. The use of a circular saw demonstrates a date of about 1850 or later, depending upon the time when such a saw was first used in the East Pembroke area.

The flat, raised ceiling above the schoolroom is presently lathed with individual sawn laths which probably date from a subsequent remodeling around 1900 (see below). Following the re-roofing of the building around 1860, this flat ceiling was probably lathed with split-board lath like the walls of the schoolroom. Because split-board lath does not hold plaster as well as sawn laths, it is likely that the flat ceiling had lost some plaster by the remodeling of around 1900, especially if anyone had occasionally walked over the attic joists (collar ties).

Further examination should reveal whether some or most of the split-board lath seen in the main schoolroom was retained in use from the original construction of the building, or whether the entire interior was re-lathed and re-plastered when the new roof was added around 1860. As noted above, the presence of some split-board laths made from circular-sawn boards suggests that the room was entirely re-plastered on split-board lath after 1850, but clearer evidence may come to light later.

Immediately inside the doorway was a vestibule with a lower plastered ceiling, which remains in place just above the present ceiling of beaded boards. In keeping with early practice, the area inside the door may originally have been extended across the full width of the southern end of the building to form a corridor and cloak room. This corridor would apparently have been lighted by the transom over the entrance door and by a single window in the south wall of the building, near the southwest corner. There is no evidence that the south wall ever had a symmetrical arrangement of windows, with a second window placed near the entrance door. In recent years, the area near the entrance door was partitioned off as a small vestibule, lighted only by the transom sash above the doorway.

Kenneth Fowler, who attended school here in the 1930s, recalls that the remainder of the southern end of the building was used as a wood room in his time. Firewood was brought from the shed into the main schoolroom through a door on the west side of the partition behind the teacher's desk. This door must have been approximately symmetrical with the door that led from the entrance vestibule into the main room.

The floor framing of the building employs two distinct systems. The southern portion of the building, including the entrance area and a portion of the schoolroom floor, is framed with a series of girders that span the structure from east to west, placed about four feet on centers. Small joists, running north-and-south, are framed into notches cut into the top edges of the girders. This framing system mirrors the tie beams and ceiling joists that originally provided the ceiling framing for the building.

The northern portion of the building, by contrast, is framed with a series of long joists that run north and south, extending from a girder beneath the schoolroom floor to the northern sill of the building. These long joists are only slightly visible at present, but they will be fully revealed for study after the building is raised for moving.

Most of these longitudinal joists have elongated slots that anchored the projecting feet of wooden desks and benches. Much the same method of anchoring seating furniture through the joists was used in older meeting houses, where the ends of the pews likewise had feet that fitted into mortises in the floor joists below. The presence of these mortises in the longitudinal joists of the northern part of the school building shows that the school room was equipped with wooden desks and benches, and should provide some indication of the width and location of the aisles between these benches.

It is possible that the building had a slanted floor, with similar wooden benches, before the present level floor was installed. Typically, a slanted schoolroom floor of the early 1800s would rise from the principal floor level of the building at a slope of about one-to-six, to a total height of two to three feet on the opposite wall. Evidence of such a slanted floor should be sought after the floor framing of the Buck Street building becomes more visible.

If no evidence is found to show that the building once had a slanted floor, it is unlikely that the structure dates as early as 1808. Evidence in other district schoolhouses shows that slanted floors remained commonplace at least through the 1820s. If the Buck Street building never had such a floor, the probability increases that the present building was constructed after 1830.

Slanted floors were increasingly viewed as old-fashioned after the mid-1800s, and most older schoolhouses were remodeled with level floors around the middle of the century. If the Buck Street building originally had a slanted floor in its northern portion, it is possible that this floor was leveled and the new roof system installed about 1860. These

changes would have given the building a modern appearance, and would have improved the ventilation of the building by allowing warm air to rise well above the students' heads.

The schoolroom has long had a hinged ventilator in its ceiling above the teacher's desk, although the effectiveness of this ventilator was lessened by the fact that there is no escape for the warm air from the sealed attic. As noted above, the remodeling of the building in the 1860 period may well have occurred in response to recommendations made by the State Commissioner of Common Schools.

The published Pembroke Town Reports make no mention of a remodeling of the District No. 3 schoolhouse in the 1860 period. The report of 1858-9 is the only report of the period to contain any reference to the Buck Street building. The report notes merely that the District No. 3 school building was equipped with a library of 43 volumes and a schoolhouse clock.

There is no further reference to the condition of the schoolhouse until the report of 1902-3, in which the superintendent of schools comments that "the Buck Street and Pembroke Street houses need renovating inside." These renovations were carried out the following year and reported in the published report of 1903-4, which is the first published town report to publish the school board's financial accounts. In that report, the school board reported that "the schoolhouses at Buck Street and Pembroke Street have been renovated." The financial accounts show that R. C. Moulton was paid \$34.86 for repairs and materials at the Buck Street and Pembroke Street schoolhouses, and that W. H. Thompson was paid \$12.78 for repairs at the Buck Street building.

Among the interior features of the Buck Street schoolhouse that may be recognized as dating from the turn of the twentieth century are the hardwood wainscoting that surrounds the room, and probably the sawn lath that holds the plaster on the flat central portion of the schoolroom ceiling. The window sashes of the building have the very thin muntin pattern that was popular at the end of the nineteenth century and into the very early twentieth century. The transom sash over the exterior doorway shares the same late-nineteenth-century pattern. The flooring of the schoolroom is presently covered with carpeting, but appears to be quarter-sawn southern yellow pine. This material, too, was highly popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and is a very durable flooring.

The attic of the building has yielded parts of an adjustable schoolroom desk and chair, both of which were intended to be screwed to the floor of the room. The pedestal of the desk includes the words, "Chandler Adjustable Chair and Desk Co., Boston, Patents Nov. 14, '93, June 8, '96." Presumably, the older, fixed wooden benches remained in the room until replaced by these adjustable fixtures.

These furniture fragments prove that a substantial investment was made in the equipment of the schoolroom sometime after 1896. It is likely that the schoolroom would have been re-floored at the time of the installation of the modern desks and chairs. Since the sums noted in the town report for 1903-4 are small, it is possible that some of this turn-of-the-century work was done before that period. As noted above, no financial accounts for schoolhouse improvements were published in earlier town reports, so such changes as re-flooring or the purchase of desks and chairs would not have appeared in prior years.

The published town reports contain little further information about the Buck Street building. The building was painted in 1901 and again in 1904; possibly one of these repainting jobs was on the interior. Residents of the Buck Street district donated a flagpole for the building in 1905. The fall school term of 1905 found only two students in attendance at the building due to depopulation of the district. The school was closed during the 1905-6 winter term, and the students were transported to the village school in Suncook. The building remained closed until the fall term of 1909, when it reopened and remained open. The building was equipped with a new slate blackboard in 1911.

The State Board of Education issued new rules for schoolhouse facilities in 1919. These called for the provision of sanitary drinking water in all schools, and for facilities for washing the hands. In response to these rules, the interiors of the Buck Street schoolhouse and all other town schoolhouses were "placed in a sanitary condition" during the summer vacation of 1920, and in 1922 town water was piped into the Buck Street building for wash stands and for drinking.

The final change to the Buck Street building occurred after the town ceased to use the schoolhouse. The building was converted for use as a neighborhood meeting place by the removal of the old partition that had separated the entry and wood room from the schoolroom. The entire interior of the schoolroom was sheathed from floor to ceiling in Celotex sheets, now largely removed. A former chair rail that capped the beaded wainscoting was removed to allow the Celotex to lie snugly against the walls. New window casings were applied over the older casings to bring the window trim beyond the new Celotex surface.

A modern kitchen was installed in the former entry-wood room area, and the kitchen was connected to the schoolroom through a wide opening for serving food. The new partial wall between the kitchen and the meeting room is not located exactly in the position of the earlier partition, and construction of this new wall obliterated most evidence of the older partition. The slate blackboard of 1911 had presumably been mounted on this lost partition. Evidence of an older blackboard of painted plaster is already visible on the western wall of the schoolroom, near the southwest corner. Evidence of other painted blackboards may also come to light.

The lifting and moving of the building will presumably reveal further evidence of its history and evolution, and should permit a better determination of the original date of construction of the schoolhouse. It would be worthwhile to carry out documentary research in the town archives or at the State Archives in conjunction with physical investigation of the building.

Most traces of the appearance of the interior of the Buck Street schoolhouse before the remodeling of a century ago are obscure, and are likely to remain so. For this reason, the most feasible period of restoration for the building would be circa 1900. The structure probably remained close to its turn-of-the-century appearance through the 1930s, and the memories of those who attended school here at that period will be an invaluable guide to the restoration of the interior.

Feasibility of removing the roof during moving: As noted above, the present roof appears to be only lightly nailed. There are few nails visible at the bird's-mouth joints where the rafters rest on the wall plate. There are virtually no nails visible at the apex of the rafters, but the tops of the rafters were probably nailed together from above before the roof sheathing was applied. The main fastening of the rafters appears to occur at the collar ties, the ends of which are securely nailed to the faces of the rafters.

It therefore appears that the roof will disassemble easily after the roof sheathing is stripped off the building. I would recommend marking each rafter and its position on the wall plates so that each piece can be returned to its original location after the building is moved. The up-and-down sawn rafters, and their related collar ties, are an important part of the history of the structure. No wood of comparable dimensions or sawing technology could be obtained today. Because the roof system is adapted to easy disassembly and reassembly, it would be both good preservation practice and good economy to reconstruct the roof just as it now stands. Likewise, it would be worthwhile to try to preserve and re-use as much of the roof sheathing and the exterior roof trim as possible.

Once the roof is replaced, the plastered ceiling can be replastered. Because of the difficulty of finding plasterers who can plaster in lime-sand-hair plaster over wooden laths, it will probably be most feasible to cover the reconstructed ceiling, and the reconstructed wall between the schoolroom and the entry/wood room, with gypsum lath or "blue board." This material can be skim-coated with gypsum plaster to give the general impression of a hand-plastered wall. All plaster and wall evidence below the roof of the building should be carefully preserved and protected against the weather as fully as possible during and after the moving of the building. Much of the evidence of the evolution of the building is encapsulated in the wall framing and plaster, and this evidence needs much deeper study to clarify the history of the building more fully.

Further investigation: The following questions should be kept in mind as better visibility is offered during lifting, moving, and restoration of the building. Physical evidence may provide answers to some of these questions, as may further documentary research in the Pembroke town and school district records.

1. Date of construction of the building.
2. Possibility of a sloping floor in the schoolroom.
3. Date of re-roofing and possible re-flooring of the building.
4. Arrangement of wooden seats and desks, and of turn-of-the-century iron-based seats and desks.
5. Possibility that the former wood room in the southwestern corner of the building was originally part of a corridor and cloak room that extended across the southern part of the structure.
6. Possibility of original (pre-1860) lath and plaster being retained, in part, in the schoolroom.
7. Location of former painted blackboards and other schoolroom features covered by later finishes.
8. Other evidence of the evolution of the building which might be included in an interpretive exhibit or left partially exposed as an aid to understanding the history of the schoolhouse.

Update, 20 November 1997:

A conversation with Kenneth Fowler on November 19, 1997, revealed the following further information about the arrangement of the south end of Schoolhouse Number 3:

The southern end of the building was divided into three rooms or areas. The first area was the entry inside the door. This entry had a door leading into the schoolroom and a door leading into a wood room. The wood room was located in the center of the south end of the building, and evidently had no window. Beyond the wood room, at the southwestern corner of the building, was a room that was lighted by the window in the south wall. This room was entered through a door leading from the main schoolroom, more or less symmetrical with the door leading into the schoolroom from the entry. Mr. Fowler recalls that this room was used as a girls' cloak room. The room also had a sink for hand-washing, with a bubbler attachment to the faucet. As noted above (page 8),

this plumbing was installed in 1922 in response to the state rules of 1919 calling for the provision of sanitary drinking water and facilities for washing hands.

Update, December 7, 1997:

Measurements for the attached floor framing plan were taken when the building had been jacked up and moved toward the road for relocation to a site near the Pembroke Town Hall. This positioning of the building made an inspection of the first floor framing feasible for the first time.

Examination of the frame showed evidence that the present framing system is not the original. The building had originally had a single cross timber placed about 8'-6" from the south end, presumably to support a simple flooring system at the south portion of the building. Similarly, the longitudinal joists that supported the feet of the school desks are not the original joists in the northern half of the building. Mortises for another set of joists, spaced about 4'-0" apart, can be seen in the gross girder near the center of the structure and in the northern sill.

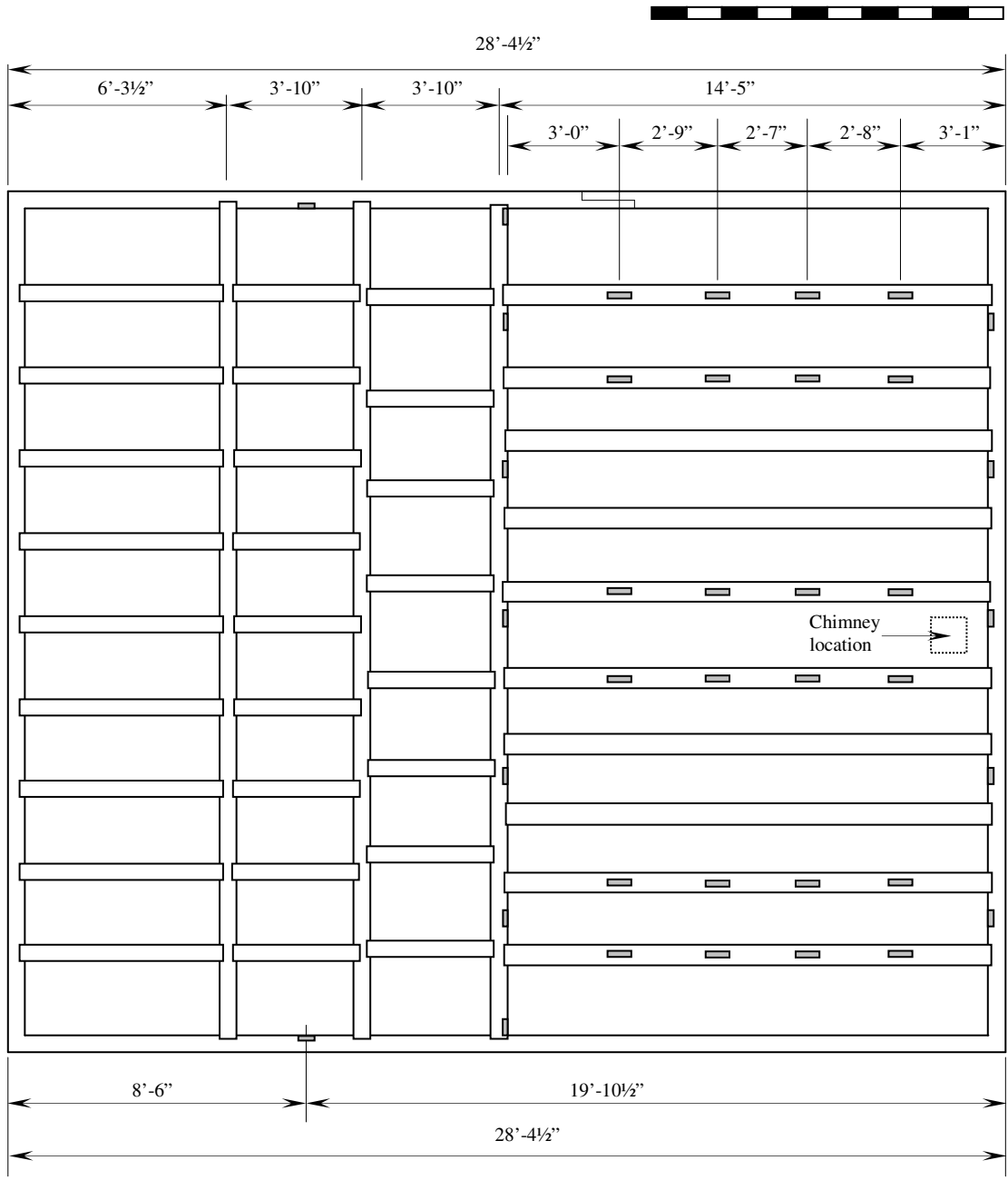
Update, May 3, 1998:

A brief examination of the schoolroom, made at a time when the Celotex wall covering had been largely removed to reveal the split board lath on the walls, revealed that the lowest zone of split board lath, extending more than a foot above the present beaded wainscoting, is circular-sawn. All the lath above this zone appears to have been sawn on a reciprocating saw. The two windows on the former northern end of the building can be seen to have been lowered. The split board lath above these windows is also circular-sawn. It thus appears that the schoolroom once had a much higher wainscoting, perhaps with smaller windows set above the top of the wainscoting. The tops of the former windows were a few inches higher than those of the present windows.

Windows approximating the present windows in size were presumably installed in the building during the renovation of circa 1860. At that time, the old wainscoting was lowered, and new split-board lath was installed to allow the walls to be plastered down to the top of the lowered wainscot. It appears that an older wainscoting of planed boards may have been retained below this juncture; the older boards seem to be in place beneath the present beaded wainscoting.

Further investigation will be needed to determine the chronology of the window changes. The present sashes appear to date from around 1900, but a similar muntin profile—though not so thin and deep—was available by about 1850. For the moment, it seems that the present sashes were installed around 1900 to replace comparable sashes that had been installed around 1860. The 1860 sashes, in turn, replaced smaller sashes, set higher in the walls, from an earlier period.

Removal of the kitchen used when the building was converted to the Buck Street Community House has disclosed older, horizontal beaded sheathing along the old southern and western walls of the southern end of the building. A zone of sheathing in the center of the former southern wall is unbeaded and much scarred; this indicates a wood room in this location, but apparently a smaller one than was there in the twentieth century. It is clear that the room at the former southwestern corner of the building was finished with beaded sheathing, and must have served either as a cloak room or a teacher's closet. The window that presently lights this space, however, was apparently installed by cutting away a wall brace. Thus, it is for the moment uncertain whether this room originally had a window. There are no obvious joints in the wall sheathing to indicate an alternative window location for this corner of the building, but much of the wall remains covered with sawn lath and plaster, and by vertical wainscoting boards, dating from around the turn of the twentieth century.



**FRAMING PLAN
PEMBROKE DISTRICT NO. 3 SCHOOLHOUSE**

APPENDIX, ADDED FEBRUARY 20, 2005

PEMBROKE DISTRICT NO. 3 (BUCK STREET DISTRICT) CHRONOLOGY FROM THE MANUSCRIPT RECORD BOOK FOR THE DISTRICT KEPT FROM 1808 TO 1858

February 15, 1808: legal voters met “at Mr. Dudley’s House where the school is now keeping.” On the warrant were articles “To Choose a Committee to build a School-House” and “To pass any vote or votes in regard to procuring ground to set a schoolhouse on, or [in regard to] Building a schoolhouse for the benefit of s^d District.” The voters chose Samuel Cochran, T. Dudley and Samuel Emery a committee to superintend the building of a schoolhouse. Those present voted that the “House be built on the same spot of ground the former school-House stood on.”

March 17, 1808: “Voted our schoolhouse be 24 by 28 feet.”

March 31, 1808: “Voted to Raise Three Hundred Dollars to defray the expense of building a schoolhouse.”

June 25, 1808: “Met at the School-House.” “Voted to build a Necessary House of the following description—8 feet long—5-wide & 7 high—2 windows 4 squares each—a good frame to be well Boarded clapboarded & shingled & painted the same as the schoolhouse is—Ceild on the walls lathed over Head—2 Rooms—2 good Battinged Doors—the whole to be completely finished in a workmanlike manner. S^d House struck off at Vendue to William Cochran at Twelve Dollars & 80 Cents.”

September 26, 1808: “Voted s^d District meet on Saturday 8th of Oct. at 8 O’Clock to build a wall round the school House—in case $\frac{3}{4}$ of the District meet—no cost—Otherwise the builders of s^d wall are to have pay for their work.” “Voted our Committee get 2 gallons N. E. Rum on the cost of the District—for the wall builders.” “Voted W^m. Knox, Tho^s. Kimball Jr., Tho^s. Cochran, Joseph Cochran & Eben^f. Huse be a Committee to see if they could agree with William Cochran concerning accepting the Necessary House—but they could not agree.” “Voted to Raise Thirty Dollars more to defray the expense of building the house.”

June 7, 1811: “Voted to Raise 45 Dollars, including the Thirty Dollars voted in 1808, to finish the Schoolhouse.”

May 4, 1812: “Dan^l. Knox Esq^f. to repair windows—Voted to admit of the Singing school being kept at the schoolhouse.”

March 10, 1823: “Voted Jacob Emery repair the School-house & bring in his bill accordingly.”

January 16, 1826: "Pursuant to a warrant from the Selectmen of Pembroke the legal voters in School District No. 3 met and . . . Then voted to repair the School-house and voted to set up the repairs to the lowest bidder in several jobs—

1st The Chimney to be repaired—a new patent fire place covered with Sheet Iron & a new hearth of good brick laid in mortar all done in a workmanlike manner to the acceptance of the committee of repairs—

2nd New window shutters to be made of good white pine boards planed & mached—cleats 8 in. wide well hung with good hinges—hooks and staples to fasten back & forth—done in a workmanlike manner to the acceptance of the committee of repairs.

3rd The floor, seats & doors to be well repaired.

Bid off by Josiah Richardson at	\$3.50
Chimney & hearth by Col. S. Cofran	7.25
Window shutters by John Carlton	6.00

Voted to build a necessary for the Schoolhouse to be 5 by 6 feet 6½ feet high between joints finished in a cheap way and well placed on the Brook to the acceptance of the above committee."

May 1, 1830: "Voted to set up the repairs of the windows in the school house for 1 year by the square under the direction of the committee of repairs struck off to Joseph Clifford at 6¼ cts. Per square, repairs of Floor, Plaistering, Seats and Ceiling to J. C. Knox .65 Cents—repairs of andirons by the pound bid off by J. Clifford at 9 cts. Per lb—repairs of Clapboards, Watercants raise the door stones and wharf up round the house within 10 inches of the sills with good gravel to extend 4 feet from the house—bid off by Nehemiah Cochran at \$1.17 cents. Al repairs to be done under the inspection of and to the acceptance of J. Richardson Coggswell Dudley & Hillery Knox, Committee of repairs."

March 11, 1833: "Voted Josiah Richardson repair the roof of the school-house, hang the closet door, mend the Chimney, repair the seats & purchase a lock & key for said house and bring in his bill for the same."

March 14, 1835: "Voted that Josiah Richardson, Hiram Knox and Samuel Gualt be a committee to examine and see what repairs are necessary to be done to the schoolhouse and report at the next meeting."

April 10, 1835: "Vote not to raise any money to repair the schoolhouse." "Voted to move the schoolhouse to a move a [*sic*] central place."

March 9, 1836: "Voted to repair the School-house where it now stands."

November 16, 1836: "Voted to repair the School-House." "Voted to raise one hundred and fifty dollars to repair said house." "Voted to purchase a stove for said house." "Voted to raise fifteen dollars for purchaseing said stove." "Chose the following persons as committee for repairing the house puchaseing stove &c. Noah M. Cofran, Nehemiah Knox, Albert G. Pearson."

March 31, 1838: On the warrant were articles to "Choose a Committee to confer with a Committee from School District No. 9 [in] relation to disposing of the Old School House and settling the affairs of the old district and to build a new school house," "to pass any other vote or votes in regard to purchasing ground to set a School house upon on building a new school house." It was "Voted to Except of the sale of the School house." "Chose Josiah Richardson, Norris Cochran & Joseph Clifford he Building Committee of s^d house." "Voted to Receive one Eight of an acre on the Easterly Corner of Knox and Martins Land at thirty two Dollars." "Voted that the Building Committee Go and prepare the house fit to move on the Expenche of the district and the whole district turn out and move the house and all the meterials on to the spot."

April 7, 1838: "Voted to raise one hundred and fifty Dollars to build s^d house." "Voted to vandue the Shingling, Clabbordering at the loist Bider." "Shingling School house struck off at Vandue to Andrew Ladd at three Dollars & 75 Cents. Clabbordering s^d house and finding one out side Door six pannels struck off at Vandue to Andrew Ladd at Eleven Dollars. Bulding Chimney & finding Lead to put round it finishing the under pining Struck off at Vandue to A. Ladd at two Dollars 62½ Cents those jobs are to be Done at the Exceptence of the Committee Brick and Stone on the old spot Struck off at Vandue to Norris Cochran at two Dollars."

April 9, 1840: On the warrant were articles "To hear and act on the bill of expenditures of the committee for removing and repairing their school house" and "To see how much money the district will vote to have assesed for painting and repairing their School house and building an outbuilding." The meeting "Voted to except the report of the Committee;" "Voted to build an out building 7 by 5 feet and 7 feet high bid off at auction on Albert G. Pearson at nine Dollars;" "Voted to raise thirty Dollars to paint School house and build and out building;" "Chose Josiah Richardson agent to furnish paints and paint the school house."

March 6, 1841: "Voted to excuse Josiah Richardson from painting the school house in said District." "Voted to choose a Committee of three to paint and repair the School house. Chose Albert G. Pearson Norris Cochran and Joseph Clifford for said committee."

May 4, 1842: "Voted to except the accompts of the committee which ware appointed to paint the School house."

September 15, 1842: "Voted to raise thirteen Dollars to repair their School house."

October 20, 1842: The third article on the warrant for the meeting was "to see if the district will vote to reconsider a vote passed by said district on the fifteenth day of September 1842 to raise thirteen Dollars to repair their School house." "Voted not to reconsider the third article in said warrant by a vote of twelve to five."

March 14, 1845: Note on method of heating the building: "Voted to sell the wood for the year prepared for the stove delivered in the wood room to the acceptance of the

teachers, which was sold accordingly to Norris Cochran for two dollars and twenty five cents.” Similar votes referring to the stove and wood room appear in ensuing years.

March 27, 1854: “Voted to raise six dollars & Twenty Cents for Purchase of Stove.”
 “Voted to draw from the Treasury what Back Money there may be & that the Prudential Committee be made a Committee of expenditures that the Selectmen asses the Six dollars & Twenty Cts for Stove and appropriate the same.” “Voted to put the School House in order for summer school and that all Parents Should replace all Glass broken by their Children.”

March 25, 1856: “Voted to instruct the Prudential Committee to patch the roof of the school house.”

March 23, 1857: “Voted not to repair the School House.”

March 30, 1858: “Voted to dismiss the seventh article for repairing the Schoolhouse, Voted the Prudential committee make some slight repairs and take it out of the school money.”

FROM SECOND BOOK OF RECORDS, 1859-1875

March 12, 1859: “Voted to choose a committee to examine the School house and report on repairs at an adjourned meeting. Voted that said Committee consist of three. Josiah Richardson, Jeremiah F. Page and Norris Cochran were chosen said committee.”

March 26, 1859: “We the committee of this school district have attended to the duty for which we were appointed, viz to examine the school house and see what repairs were necessary to be made. We now report as follows: Finding it necessary to shingle the school house we thought it to be to the best advantage to put on a new roof to be steeper than the old one, to repair the clapboards when necessary and paint the outside[;] in the inside we think it necessary to have the story made higher. Jeremiah F. Page
 Josiah Richardson Committee
 Norris Cochran

Voted to accept the report of the Committee.”

“Voted that the district make the following repairs on [the] School house viz Put on a new roof one foot below a square or half pitch, collar beams put across each pair of rafters 11 feet above floor of said house, about 18 inches projection on ends and sides, finished in a plain manner and shingled with second growth heart shingles, gable ends to be boarded and clapboarded. South end clapboarded new, the bottom boards to be taken off and clapboarded instead. Clapboarding to be patched or mended where needed, a new chimney built from collar beams, desk taken out, a stand 10 inches high for a table, a table to be made 4 feet long, 2 feet wide with a draw with lock. A book cupboard 4 feet high 2 feet wide 1 ft deep with shelves put in the bonnet room and a lock on door, the top of school room lathed on rafters & collar beams (ventilater overhead) and overhead in the school room and bonnet room plastered, wood room ceiled overhead desks planed over

and one new top put on, three new bottom sash, front and wood room doors repaired, outside painted, trimmings white and body with mineral paint (similar to Philip Stevens house) all with two good coats, the beams over school room taken out.

Voted to choose a committee on repairs to consist of three whose duty it shall be to superintend the repairing of the school house and when completed to accept of and settle for the same. Chose Asa Ames Norris Cochran and Joshua F. Sawyer said committee.

Voted that the job to repair the school house be let at auction to the lowest responsible bidder at an adjourned meeting.

Voted the committee on repairs give public notice of time, place & manner of letting of the job to repair the schoolhouse.”

April 9, 1858: “Voted to reconsider all of the votes of the last meeting in relation to repairing the school house.

The committee reported as follows in addition to former report

Ammendments to our report

1st Three bottom windows to be new

2nd A new pannel in the front door and two in the wood room door

3rd the west end to be clapboarded all new—the front side up to the windows and the rest of the clapboards repaired

4th A new chimney to stand near where the old one stands

5th A Cupboard to put the Libraries in

Jeremiah F. Page
Josiah Richardson
Norris Cochran

Voted to accept the report of the committee

Voted to have the pitch of the roof the same as the new house on the old Edes Stand in Allentown

Voted to have the school house shingled with No 2 old growth heart shingles.

Voted to choose Asa Ames Norris Cochran and Joshua F. Sawyer a committee on repairs who being present were qualified.

Voted to use good sap Clapboards

Voted to have the story 12 feet high from floor

Voted to have 16 in projection on ends & sides to be finished in a plain manner

Voted to paint the body with mineral paint and the trimmings white all with two good coats

Voted to have 11 pairs rafters 2½ by 7 in and collar beams on each pair of rafters over school room the same size

Voted that the school house be repaired to the acceptance of the committee

Voted that the job be done between the first day of August and the last of September

Voted to sell the job at auction to the lowest bidder”

April 23, 1859: “Voted to proceed to let the job at auction.

Let to Hall B. Emery for \$120.

Voted that the district raise the sum of \$135 to repair the school house

Voted that the committee on repairs be instructed to sell the old stove and purchase a new one

Voted to raise the sum of \$5 in addition to what has already been raised”

November 19, 1859: “Voted that the committee be instructed to purchase two chairs for the school room.

The committee on repairs the account of their receipts and expenditures as follows

Received of Selectmen by order on town Treasurer	\$143.66
Recd of W ^m L. Morse for old Stove	<u>1.90</u>
Amount of receipts	145.56
Paid W ^m L. Morse for Stove & funnel	14.08
“ Moses Martin for repairs on school house	3.92
Paid Hall B. Emery for repairing school house as per contract and extra work	<u>125.00</u>
Amount of Expenditures	142.95
Balance in hands of com	2.61

Voted that the account of the committee on repairs be accepted

Voted that the amount remaining in the hands of the Committee be paid to Asa Ames for his services in procuring Stove and putting up stove and stove pipe”

March 3, 1870: “Voted to instruct the Prudential Committee to require of the Teacher to take especial care that the School House is not damaged by the scholars, and in the event of damage so done to report the name of such scholar to the Committee if it can be known and that the Committee require all such damage to be made good.”

March 7, 1874: “Voted to instruct the Prudential Committee not to allow the School house to be opened for any purpose excepting Religious Meetings without the consent of a majority of the legal voters of the district.”

March 25, 1875: “Voted that the sum of fifteen dollars be raised by the district for the purpose of buying a new stove for the School house in said district.”

THIS BOOKS ENDS IN 1875. NO RECORDS HAVE BEEN LOCATED FOR DISTRICT No. 3 BETWEEN 1875 AND 1885, WHEN THE ENTIRE TOWN BECAME A SINGLE SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER STATE LEGISLATION.

THE MANUSCRIPT CLERK’S RECORDS OF THE PEMBROKE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM 1886 TO 1928, AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, DO NOT CONTAIN ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3.